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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
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TONNAGE AGAIN STAGNANT IN OCTOBER

General freight carrier tonnage in October 1983 registered a slight decline from September according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 139.2(p), with 1967=100, the October tonnage is 1.2 points (0.9 percent) below September's 140.4(r). General freight tonnage has changed very little since July in contrast to the gains registered over the first half of the year. On a positive note, October marks the sixth month in a row that tonnage has exceeded levels for comparable months of 1982.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in ATA survey decreased from 7.7 million tons in September to 7.5 million tons in October of 1983. Actual tons decreased 3.1%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality the number of working (trading) days reduced October Index Level to 139.2(p).

From September to October of 1983, industrial production increased 0.8% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decline of 0.9%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short-term non-significant movements in the series.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH OCTOBER 1983
1967 = 100

	Oct. 1983	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1983	Oct. 1982	Monthly % Change 9/83 / 8/83	Monthly % Change 10/83 / 9/83	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	139.2p	140.4r	140.7f	125.1f	-0.2	-0.9	+11.3
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	143.3p	147.9r	142.9f	128.3f	+3.5	-3.1	+11.7
Industrial Production Index[2] (total)	154.8	153.6	151.4	135.7	+1.5	+0.8	+14.1
Manufacturers (total)	156.2	154.8	152.6	135.0	+1.4	+0.9	+15.7
Non-durable	174.6	173.9	172.5	156.2	+0.8	+0.4	+11.8
Durable	143.5	141.6	138.7	120.3	+2.1	+1.3	+19.3
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	410.3	406.0	401.2	372.4	+1.2	+1.1	+10.2
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	287.9	285.1	286.2	284.1	-0.4	+1.0	+1.3
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	302.6	301.8	300.3	294.1	+0.5	+0.3	+2.9
Tonnage Reported by 199 Carriers in October 1983 (000 tons)	7,473	7,712	n.a.	6,643	n.a.	-3.1	+12.5

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983*
January	164.8	192.3	163.7	152.6	129.1	126.6
February	174.1	198.8	156.6	152.1	132.1	125.3
March	176.0	202.7	157.6	152.1	128.8	126.1
April	191.5	143.9	150.4	152.6	130.9	130.8
May	182.5	189.3	142.6	153.5	132.3	133.8
June	180.9	186.8	140.1	152.3	132.4	137.2
July	176.7	185.6	135.4	152.2	130.9	139.9
August	183.7	176.1	142.2	148.7	132.5	140.7
September	183.3	174.7	146.0	144.5	129.7	140.4r
October	189.5	172.8	147.4	139.9	125.1	139.2p
November	186.8	171.5	150.9	135.7	121.3	
December	190.4	168.4	152.4	128.1	121.9	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1981	152.4	152.3	152.3	152.7	152.8	152.7	151.1	148.5	144.4	140.0	134.6	131.0
1982	129.8	130.0	130.6	130.7	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.0	129.1	125.4	122.8	123.3
1983	124.6	126.0	127.4	130.2	133.9	137.0	139.3	140.3r	140.1p			

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.